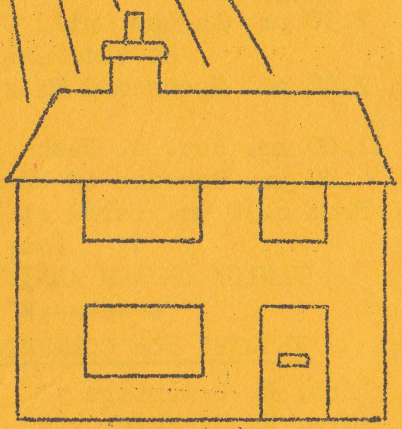
My 1975

THE
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH

The Messenger



Price 4p

St. Stephen's,
Milnrow . & . Littleborough

MILNROW DIARY

May			
Fri.	2nd	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Sun.	4th	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash)Reception of
		6.00 pm.	")CWM Boxes.
Mon.	5th	5.45 pm.	Pre-Pilots) And each Monday
		6.30 pm.	Pilots) as announced
Tues.	6th	6.15 pm.	Envoys (And each Tuesday)
		7.30 pm.	Womens Guild - Miss McQueen:(Christian Aid)
Wed.	7th	2.00 pm.	Young Mums Group
Sun.	11th	11.00 am.	Mr. E. Balmforth
		6.00 pm.	Mrs. M. Carnihan
Mon.	12th	7.30 pm.	Elders & Church Visitors Mtg.
Tues.	13th	7.30 pm.	Junior Church Staff Meeting in Pennine Room
Wed.	14th	2.00 pm.	Young Mums Group (also 21st & 28th)
		7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Thur.	15th		Church Spring Cleaning
Sun.	18th	11.00 am.	Family Communion
		6.00 pm.	Rev. A. Nash
Mon.	19th	8.15 pm.	Efforts Committee Mtg.
Sun.	25th	11.00 am.	Family Worship
		6.00 pm.	Rev. A. Nash
Wed.	28th	7.30 pm.	Church Meeting & Spartan Supper
Thur.	29th	7.30 pm.	Ladies Guild Committee Mtg. at the Manse
Sat.	31st	2.00 pm.	Sponsored Walk
June			
Sun.	1st	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament
Fri.	6th	From 6.30 pm.	BarBQ at 14 Heaton St. (see page 11)
Sun.	8th		FAMILY CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

May 4th	Mrs. E. Gowdridge	
11th	Mrs. E. Starkie	Mrs. E. Prince
18th	Mrs. F. Rae	Mrs. D. Chadwick
25th	Mrs. E. Busill	Mrs. L. Lord
June 1st	Mrs. B. Webber	

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

May

Sun. 4th 10.30 am. Mr. J. Lord
Wed. 7th 6.45 pm. Pilots
Sat. 10th SPECIAL EFFORT FOR CHRISTIAN AID
(See page 13)
Sun. 11th 10.30 am. Rev. A. Nash
6.00 pm. " (fellowship hour to follow)
Tues. 13th 7.30 pm. Cookery Demo. N.W.G.B. 10p.
Wed. 14th 6.45 pm. Pilots
Sun. 18th 10.30 am. Whit Sunday: Mrs. M. Nash
(Joint Service with Methodist Ch.)
Tues. 20th 7.30 pm. Womens Guild: Birthday Supper
Wed. 21st 6.45 pm. Pilots
Thur. 22nd 7.30 pm. Men's Fellowship A.G.M.
Sun. 25th 10.30 am. Rev. A. Nash (Family Communion)
Wed. 28th 6.45 pm. Pilots

June

Sun. 1st 10.30 am. Mr. J. Lord
Sun. 8th Reception of C.W.M. Boxes

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

May 4th	Mrs. R. Holt
11th	Mrs. Lowett
18th	Mrs. Arthur
25th	Mrs. Macaulay
June 1st	Mrs. Simpson

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Don't forget that the next issuse of the 'Messenger' will be a combined June/July edition, and all items for this should be in the hands of the editor no later than the 18th May,

The Manse,

MAY 1975

Dear friends,

Jesus made many outstanding claims and one of them was that he had come so that men could have life in all its fulness. In order to make this more plain some writers have drawn the distinction between existence and life by using a capital letter when writing the word Life. Certainly there is a difference between these two things.

Christ was concerned that people should not just "exist" but that they should know a completeness of life, and in the Gospels the word "wholeness" occurs frequently to translate his use of words concerned with man's total health and deliverance. "Wholeness" is used as often in the spiritual sense as in the medical. A person is healed, therefore "wholeness" is restored. A person is forgiven -- "wholeness" is restored.

Many people seem, however, to think that such a state of wholeness applies to body and mind only. They seek to be physically fit. They like to be mentally alert. Beyond that they have no aspirations. We must applaud the fact that they desire both these things. Their wishes are fully in accord with God's will for us all. They have, however, placed a limitation upon themselves by thinking only in terms of the physical and mental. They have life but not Life.

Such an outlook is very much with us in this present generation. Man is seen as an earth-bound being, the product of a purposeless universe. All this has led many people to take a very depressed view of life. Despair is certainly much with us in these days and is the inevitable outcome of regarding man as merely body and mind.

The truth of the matter is that man cannot be whole, cannot have fulness of life, cannot be fully hum without God and wholeness of the soul. Wholeness merely in terms of body and mind cannot satisfy. God created man to be "a living soul", to have fellowship with a Living God. This is what Christ was speaking of when He said that He had come to bring to men "Life in all its fulness." Every human being needs this true wholeness and this is the wholeness we must commit ourselves to bring to others. This is the wholeness made possible only in Jesus Christ, who came that men might have "Life in all its fulness".

May God bless you all,

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

Thought:

"I have found no satisfaction with anything on earth, that is why I believe the only satisfaction lies in the transcendental."

(Malcolm Muggeridge, in "Face your Image" BBC 1)

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BAPTISM

On Sunday 30th March at St. Stephen's:

STUART BUTTERWORTH, son of Mr. & Mrs. G. Butterworth, of Chichester Close, Smithy Bridge.

"May God bless this little one."

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OBITUARY

Mrs. NELLIE STOTT, aged 79 years, of 14 New Street, Milnrow, passed away at Birch Hill Hospital. The funeral service at Rochdale Crematorium on the 25th April, was conducted by our minister. Our deepest sympathy is extended to all relatives.

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On Monday, May 5th, our Minister will make his way to London for the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church. We wish him God-speed on his journeyings. Doubtless he will return with much information to share with us. Your prayers are asked for all that shall be done during Assembly time from 5th to 9th May.

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Your prayers are asked for.....

Those recently bereaved....

The young people who recently committed their lives to Christ.....

Our Junior Church Staffs, at Milnrow and Littleborough, that they may be continuously upheld by the Holy Spirit as they seek to teach the children and young people of God's great love for them as shown in Christ Jesus.....

For all elderly members of our Churches who are laid aside in sickness or infirmity, that they may know the peace of God in their hearts and His healing arms surrounding them at all times.....

Those we know who are in hospital.....

For the many who suffer because of man's inhumanity to man.....

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SPRING CLEANING

All hands on deck for Spring Cleaning at St. Stephen's on Thursday, May 15th. Come any time from 6.0 pm., armed with dusters, etc., etc. Much help is needed for this effort and whatever time you can spare will be very acceptable. A cup of tea will be available to help spur you on.

A word of thanks are due here to the team of ladies - and men - who, for several months have cleaned the church and school each week. Your work is very much appreciated.

THE TAX MAN GIVETH!

St. Stephen's church funds are about to receive a £154 boost from the Inland Revenue. That bears repeating -

£154 from the Inland Revenue

- and that is not all, for over the last seven years we have received -

£921 from the Inland Revenue

Many of you will have guessed that this accrues from the COVENANT GIVING SCHEME, and one again we urge you to join this money spinner. Please don't think that this scheme is just for rich men - it is simply for those who pay standard rate of tax. Why not phone 391708 and ask for 'covenant giving' information or contact Ken Hey (our church treasurer).

Resolve to do it this month!

If the good Lord associated with tax collectors he surely wouldn't object to this.

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ST. STEPHEN'S ROCKET REPORT

At present the countdown to blast-off stands at 5. This represents £27 received to date for the HEATING FUND. Don't forget to keep your penny-a-day going so that the rocket can really lift-off at Church Anniversary on June 8th.

****

On going to press the ENVOYS are preparing to entertain members of the Disabled Club. We have foom for more players in the Envoys. Will anybody who is interested, see either our Minister or Mrs. Bradbury please.

SPARTAN SUPPER (Proceeds for Christian Aid
at St. Stephen's on Wednesday, 28th May at 7.30
Please bring your own bread, dish and spoon.
Admission 10p

YOUNG PEOPLE

On the 12th & 13th April, seven of our young people attended a weekend Conference at Union St. U.R.C., Oldham. It was organised completely by a committee drawn from the young people themselves, which included Val Fursey, who kept us well informed of the real hard work that went into this project. The theme of the Conference was "Discovery", and during the course of the weekend we progressed from discovering anew, familiar objects (oranges for instance!) - ourselves - and finally our Lord Jesus Christ. In his innocence, Ron Gillon thought his roll would be just an interested observer. He should have known better! On the Sunday, both morning and evening services were arranged and conducted by conference delegates, the weekend coming to a close with a very moving Communion Service. The most marvelous happening was, that one by one, all seven of our young people were moved to declare their intention to comit themselves to the service of God through our Lord Jesus. It was quite a weekend. Our thanks to St. Stephen's for bearing half the cost for our group.

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YOUNG MUMS - Wednesdays from 2.0 pm.

May 7th: Opened by Mrs. C. Hey
- A Magistrate tells us..(Mr.J. Harrison)

14th: Opened by Mrs. M. Holden
- Petticoat Line -

21st: Opened by Mrs. J. Ineson
- A topical duscussion -

28th: Opened by Mrs. A. Turner
- Games afternoon -

The "Young Mums" is now a year old. During that time many new friends have been made and many a helpful, happy hour has been spent. One of the things which has made this possible has been the loyal help given by Mrs. N.Settle, Mrs.F.Rae, Mrs.C.Armstrong and Mrs. A. Collins who have looked after the children week after week. A very big 'thank you' ladies - we do appreciate your self sacrificial service in this way.

THE LADIES GUILD

A very happy time was spent at our last meeting when we thoroughly enjoyed the talk given by Miss Paton-Rogerson, followed by an interesting and helpful discussion.

We look forward to meeting again on May 6th when Miss McQueen from Christian Aid will come to speak about the work attempted and achieved by that wonderful organisation. An invitation is given to all ladies who are free that evening to join with us from 7.30 p.m.

Looking ahead to the 3rd June - Don't miss "Dessert Island Discs!"

HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR SEAT YET FOR -
THE WOMEN'S GUILD OUTING?

DATE..... Tuesday, September 23rd.

TIME..... Leave Milnrow at approx. 6.15 pm.

WHERE TO.. Wilsons of Lothersdale - a woollen mill in Yorkshire. We shall first look round the mill and the mill shop, and then for those who want to make it a real night out, supper can be had in the local village hall.

MENU..... Cold Roast Chicken & Stuffing, roast ham, or Egg and Ham Stand Pie, Green Salad, Potato Salad, Cucumber, etc.
Home made apple pie & fresh cream or Fresh Cream Strawberry Trifle.
Tea, bread and butter.

COST..... Coach Fare - approx. 60p
Supper - 95p.

If you would like to join us please give your name to Mrs. Margaret Holden as soon as possible.

May we remind you that the next issue of the MESSENGER will be a combines June/July edition, and items for this should be in the hands of the editor no later than 18th May.

EFFORTS COMMITTEE REPORT——

The FAMILY SOCIAL with a CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS competition which was held at St. Stephen's on Saturday 19th April was a 'roaring' success. No-one envied Mr. & Mrs. J. Harrison their task of judging over 40 entries, which varied from such characters as Charlie Chaplain to the glamorous Miss World. The prize winners were: -

Under 7: Alys Bates, Anne Marie Whitehead and Rebecca Reed.

7 - 14: Paula Bamford, Susan Jackson, and Simon Rothwell.

Our sincere thanks to the M.C's.- Mr. Jack Collins and Mr. Harry Mellor, assisted by Mr. Alan Turner who did a marvelous job chatting up the contestants, whilst the judges made their decision.

The proceeds amounted to £18.

*

Next Effort:

SPONSORED WALK -on Saturday, 31st May.
We shall leave the school at 2.0 pm.(app.5 miles)

Sponsor forms are available from Mr. J. Emmott. (Don't forget to collect your sponsor money afterwards)

Please help by walking, or sponsoring the walkers!.

*

Watch out for:

MIDSUMMER 'MASKED' REVELS
Saturday, 14th June - 7.30 - 10.30 p.m.
Dancing Games
Admission: Adults 15p; Children 10p.
Refreshments on sale at moderate charges.

Join in the fun by wearing a mask and guessing who's who until the moment of truth is revealed.

Raise a laugh and help us raise some money!

Please note that WHIST DRIVES will commence again on Monday, 7th July.

BAR - B - Q

Imagine a warm summers night, the fragrant perfume of flowers, the sun just setting, happy faces, laughing voices and the aroma of fried onions and sausages filling the air.

All this can be found in Milnrow on Friday, 6th June from 6.30 pm., at 14 Heaton Street, which is the venue for a GRAND BARBECUE.

We are catering for all ages, with games and stalls for everyone to enjoy. The not so young can find warmth and comfort inside the house.

Admission is free, but a small charge will be made for games and refreshments. Please help us to make this event a success, by coming along and enjoying yourself.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 17th - 25th MAY

Once again we appeal for help in the distribution and collection of envelopes. If you can help in your area, please give your name to Mr. J. Emmott.

The more helpers we have - the less each one has to do!

Can you be a Christian without going to Church?

Briefly - It is difficult to become a Christian without coming into touch with the Church, and it is very hard to keep on being a Christian without keeping in touch with the Church.

Can you be a Christian without going to Church?

Well, you just might be, but you probably won't be one for long!!!

LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

WOMEN'S GUILD

Many thanks to our younger Guilders who 'entertained' us so well at our April Meeting: The Duetists - Peggy and Kathleen; Mrs. Leach, who gave us interesting information on 4 hymns which she read; and Mrs. Walls who read a selection of helpful readings, one of which we give you below.

"It may be some little church along a leafy lane.
It may be a glorious cathedral, a majestic fane.
It may be that rather ugly looking pile just up the street,
Or some humble red brick Bethel where the faithful meet -
But it's YOUR church, the one within your parish boundary.
The visible expression of your christianity.
Your Church. You are responsible for making it a place -
Where the weary heart can find the boon of peace and grace.
Keep it clean and beautiful and give all you can spare -
To raise the money needed to maintain it in repair.
It is Christ for whom you Labour when these things you do -
For this is the holy place where He breaks bread with you."

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 20th, when amongst other things we shall enjoy a Birthday Supper. We are open to accept more members - so Ladies - book the date - May 20th! Come along!

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AUTUMN FAIR.....November 22nd 1975!!!

Coupons are now on sale. Please contact Mrs. Ethel Crossley or any coupon seller and start saving NOW!

BUSY BEES BRAVE BLIZZARD

Despite blizzard conditions, the Busy Bees raised £8.53 at their Bargain Party. Thanks to all who braved the elements on a wintry April evening.

We look forward to seeing you at our Cookery Demo., on May 13th. If we don't have 30 people present we have to pay £5,50 + V.A.T. Everyone welcome!

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SERVICE FOR OUR OLDER FRIENDS

What a grand turn out of folk there was for this occasion, and how everybody seemed to enjoy it thoroughly. Many thanks to all the members at Littleborough who made the service a possibility, and for providing refreshments afterwards.

A good piece of work.

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SATURDAY, MAY 10th - YOUR CHANCE TO HELP OTHERS
ALL PROCEEDS FOR CHRISTIAN AID

A Sponsored walk of about 5 miles will commence at 2.30 pm.

We hope families and everyone with more than one foot will take part.

Sponsor sheets available NOW!

If you can't walk, we are holding a Bring & Buy sale in the schoolroom at 3.30 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

You can cheer the walkers on their return.

Please help by walking, or sponsoring, or both.

You can sponsor yourself if you wish.

We must do away with this idea that if you walk you don't sponsor. You can sponsor one another, etc.

The folk who haven't much can't give
A frightful lot away,
Or send a big donation to
A worthy cause each day.
But they can give a friendly smile
To make poor folk feel rich awhile!

Taken from the "Friendship Book" of Francis Gay

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

May 4th	Mrs. Crossley	Mr. Beattie	
11th	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. J. Nairn	10.30
	Mr. E. Holt		6.00
18th	Mr. H.N. Hill	Mr. J. Lord	
25th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mr. J. Holt	
June 1st	Mrs. Crossley	Mr. J. Nairn	

COMMUNION ROTA

May 11th	Mr. Beattie	Mr. Nairn 6.00 pm.
25th	Mr. Simpson	Mr. Lord 10.30 am.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

May 4th	Mrs. M. Hill	
11th	Miss L. Merrick	Mrs. M. Hill (pm.)
18th	Mrs. E. Cockcroft	
25th	Miss L. Merrick	
June 1st	Mrs. M. Hill	

COFFEE ROTA

May 4th	W. Law	J. Law	
11th	S. Moss	K. Hill	
18th	J. Allison	B. Allison	B. Merrick
25th	J. Hobbs	W. Spinks	
June 1st	L. Butterworth	B. Holt	

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

FAMILY READINGS

May 4th	James 2: 14-23	M. Law
11th	John 15: 1-10	M. Grindrod
18th	Joel 2: 23-29	(Joint Service)
25th	Job 28: 12-28	P. Lightfoot
June 1st		M. G. Hill

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

May 4th	Mrs. F. Rae	Mrs. P. Royle
11th	Mr. A. Bruckshaw	Mrs. A. Baines
18th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae
26th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mr. F. Butterworth
June 1st	Mr. J. Harrison	Mr. I. Royle

ELDERS ROTA

EVENING DOOR STEWARDS	DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
MAY		
4th Mrs. N.Settle	Mrs. E.Gillon	Mrs. Bradbury
11th Mr. J. Emmott	Mr. A. Roberts	Mrs. C. Hey
18th Mr. B. Clough	Mrs.M.Howarth	Mrs.E.Starkie
26th Mr. J. Wild	Mr. R. Gillon	Mr. J. Emmott
June 1.Mrs.M.Howarth	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

May 4th	Mr. R. Gillon	Mrs. E. Gillon
18th	Mr. A. Roberts	Mr. J. Emmott) a.m.
	Mr. B. Clough	Mr. J. Wild)
June 1st	Mrs. N. Settle	Miss M. Wood

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

May 4th	Mrs. J. Cudworth	Mrs. N. Settle
11th	Mrs. E. Busill	Miss I. Tither
18th	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith
26th	Miss M. Wood	Miss A. Clegg
June 1st	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

COLLECTIONS

	Cash am.	Cash pm.	Envelopes	Total	
Mar. 2nd	6.30	2.58	15.86	24.74	
9th	7.57	1.60	14.23	23.40	
16th	8.24	1.51	15.59	25.34	
23rd	6.43	1.30	23.84	31.57	
27th		3.45		3.45	(Thur.)
28th	3.34	3.24		6.58	(Fri.)
30th	10.98		18.81	29.79	
	£42.86	£13.68	£88.33	£144.87	

MINISTER:

Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.,
The Manse,
196 Harbour Lane,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

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CHURCH SECRETARIES:

MILNROW

Mr. Allan Roberts,
54 Beechfield Road,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr. F.G. Simpson,
121 Calderbrook Road,
Littleborough.
Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

*

MESSENGER EDITOR:

Mr. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ),
24 Ladyhouse Close,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

*

HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW:

Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory
Mrs. M. Settle